

Message Text

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64
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-05 EURE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /109 W
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P 041530Z OCT 74

FM AMEBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5776
INFO USCNEUR
CINSNAVEUR
CINCUAFE
USDOCOSOUTH
COMSIXHTFLT
CTF 60
COMDESRON 12

UNCLAS ATHENS 7259

EO 11652 NA
TAGS PINT GR
SUBJ: PM CARAMANLIS PROCLAIMS PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
ON NOV 17

1. SUMMARY: ON NATIONWIDE RADIO/TV HOOKUP OCT 3 CARAMANLIS URGED GREEK VOTERS TO EXERCISE MATURITY AND RESPONSIBILITY WHEN THEY GO TO POLLS NOV 17 "A, GREAT AND CRITICAL DAY" FOR GREECE. HE DESCRIBED FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS AND STARTING NEW PERIOD IN NATIONAL LIFE WITH FIRST BALLOTTING IN TEN YEARS TO ELECT PARLIAMENT WITH INCREASED COMPETENCE TO GIVE COUNTRY ITS "NEW CHARTER." PM REFERRED TO HIS OWN ANXIETIES AND PERSONAL DANGERS WHICH HE ENDURED TO SECURE RIGHT FOR GREEK VOTERS TO CHOOSE GOVERNMENT, AND COUNSELED NATIONA TO SUPPORT CAMPAIGN CONDUCTED CALMLY AND IN CIVILIZED MANNER. END SUMMARY.

2. PM CARAMANLIS DELIVERED BRIEF MESSAGE TO NATION OCT 3 ON TV/RADIO, OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS NOV 17. CARAMANLIS STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF SUPREME RIGHT TO VOTE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO DETERMINE COUNTRY'S FUTURE AFTER PERIOD OF DARKNESS.

HE ANTICIPATED ELECTIONS WILL USHER IN NEW PERIOD IN NATIONAL LIFE THROUGH ELECTING A PARLIAMENT WITH INCREASED AUTHORITY TO PRODUCE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL CHARTER. CARAMANLIS CALLED ON GREEK PEOPLE TO SHOW RESPONSIBILITY AND TO PUT INTO DEEDS THEIR WISH FOR MODERNIZATION AND CLEANING OF PUBLIC LIFE.

3. CARAMANLIS DECLARED THAT FROM DAY OF HIS RETURN HE HAD PASSED THROUGH ANXIETIES AND SERIOUS DANGERS IN ORDER TO SECURE FOR THE NATION THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE FREELY ITS OWN GOVERNMENT. PREMIER APPEALED TO VOTERS TO DISPLAY POLITICAL MATURITY AND RESPONSIBILITY AND TO CONDUCT CAMPAIGN IN SERENE, CIVILIZED MANNER. HE CONCLUDED ON PATRIOTIC NOTE EXPRESSING HOPE THAT CITIZENS WOULD TOGETHER BUILD SAFER AND HAPPIER GREECE

4. CARAMANLIS SEEMED RELAXED AND CONFIDENT AS HE DELIVERED VIDEOTAPED SPEECH IN HIS USUAL STERN AND SOMEWHAT PATERNALISTIC MANNER. IN ETHNICALLY HOMOGENEOUS AND TIGHTLY STRUCTURED GREEK SOCIETY HIS APPROACH APPEARS AS GOOD PSYCHOLOGY AND LIKELY TO GARNER SUPPORT.

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